28 March - HRH The Duke of York, KG has heard today how the Met Office is crucial in supporting the continued growth of businesses in south west England, the UK and overseas.

During a visit to the Met Office Headquarters and Operations Centre in Exeter The Duke of York learnt about the key role the Met Office has in providing services that help to save lives, protect property and make businesses both in the UK and overseas more effective and efficient.

John Hirst, Met Office Chief Executive said: "During the visit His Royal Highness was shown how the Met Office delivers world-class science into essential services on a continual basis, both independently and in partnership with others. Our services to the public and businesses alike deliver substantial social and economic benefit for the south west and the UK."

Focusing on The Duke of York's interests in working alongside others to create an environment in which the UK is a world leader in science, His Royal Highness was shown some of the scientific research undertaken at the Met Office.

This world-leading research included latest developments in climate science from the Met Office Hadley Centre as well as the scientific achievements that enable the Met Office to provide not only extremely accurate day-to-day weather forecasts, but also forecasts in support of natural hazards from extreme rainfall to the impacts of space weather.

Finally as part of the visit The Duke of York spoke to a number of students from Exeter College who work with staff at the Met Office to develop their skills and knowledge to benefit their university and job applications and help support their career ambitions.

Contact information

Met Office Press Office: **+44 (0)1392 886655**

E-mail: Press Office

Met Office Customer Centre: **01392 885680**

If you're outside the UK: **+44 1392 885680**

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